INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT



A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
C22C21/00 C23C4/02 C22F1/00 F16C33/12 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC **B. FIELDS SEARCHED** Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) C22C C22F C23C F16C Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included. In the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, INSPEC C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Relevant to claim No. Category * Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages WO 97/22725 A (MIBA GLEITLAGER 1-14, AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT; MERGEN, ROBERT) 24-26 26 June 1997 (1997-06-26) cited in the application page 2 - page 14; claims 1-31 15-23 PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN 1-14,vol. 2000, no. 04, 24-26 31 August 2000 (2000-08-31) & JP 2000 017363 A (TAIHO KOGYO CO LTD), 18 January 2000 (2000-01-18) abstract EP 0 911 425 A (LINDE AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT; 15-23 LINDE AG) 28 April 1999 (1999-04-28) column 2 - column 4; claims 1-7 Patent family members are listed in annex. Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Special categories of cited documents: "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but 'A' document defining the general state of the art which is not cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the considered to be of particular relevance invention 'E' earlier document but published on or after the International "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention filing date cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone which is cited to establish the publication date of another "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention citation or other special reason (as specified) cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other, such docu-"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled other means in the art. *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed *&" document member of the same patent family Date of mailing of the international search report Date of the actual completion of the international search 06/12/2005 29 November 2005 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Chebeleu, A-Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

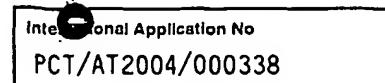
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